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November 5, 1965

Dr. Robert F. Thorne
Rancho Santa Ana Botanic Garden
1500 North College Ave.
Claremont, Calif.

Dear Dr. Thorne:

Things have been rather slow in the query department recently - or the things we've received have been impossible for anybody to identify. These aren't too good, but perhaps you can take a stab at some of them.

No. 1 - From Trinity Co.: "The enclosed branch and nut from a tree have been called wild nutmeg and a member of the Yew wood family. We would like to have you identify the tree for us. Are the nuts edible?" (Guess No. 1 - California Nutmeg - Torreya Californica? mm.) Torreyacal.

No. 2 - From Escondido, San Diego Co.: "Please identify this tree for me. The friend who gave me the cone said the tree was about 25 or 30 feet tall and that the limbs spread out away from the trunk. Enclosed drawing is about the right size. The cone had 12 segments. It grew about 10 inches from the tip of the branch. Also enclosed are a few of the seeds. I would like to propagate some." (No guess - conifers are a mystery to me.) Cupressus

No. 3 - From Live Oak, Sutter Co.: "Will you please tell me the name of the tree from which I obtained the enclosed leaves. Have been told it may be what is commonly called the umbrella tree that has a white berry and is very messy. Is this correct?" (Texas umbrella tree - Melia azedarachi var. umbraculiformis??????)

No. 4 - From Fontana: "Enclosed is a cutting from an evergreen bush or tree. Would like to to know the name of it." Retinospora

Don't bother much about the "barren" ones, especially No. 4, which I just included in case it looks like something special to you.

Hope you had a nice vacation up north.

Sincerely,

CALIFORNIA FARMER

By Marjorie McAlinden
Marjorie McAlinden

MM:sc
Enc.